

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0251

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJ: KURDISH NEWSPAPER SUSPENDED

1. ON FEB. 18, 1976, THE KURDISH DAILY ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN BAGHDAD, AT-TAAKHI, FAILED TO APPEAR. A NEW NEWSPAPER IN THE SAME FORMAT, ENTITLED IRAQ, TOOK ITS PLACE ON THE NEWSTANDS.

2. THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF ATAJTAAUTI WAS AZIZ AKR-WIN A KURDISH MEMBER OF THE IRAQI CABINET WHO HOLDS THE PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF STATE. THE NEW PAPER, IRAQ, DID NOT MENTION AZIZ AKRAWI IN ITS MASTHEAD BUT INSTEAD LISTED A SIX-MEMBER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF:

HASHIM HASAN AKRAWI

SALEH AL-HAIDARI

ABDULLAH RUJBIYANI

FA'IK JAMEEL

ABDULLAH MUSSA

MOHAMMAD AMINE MOHAMMAD

ALL OF WHOM ARE KURDS. HASHIM HASAN AKRAWI IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PRESENT CABINET HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF MUNICIPALITIES.

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3. IN ITS INAUGURAL ISSUE, IRAQ CARRIED AN EDITORIAL THAT

MADE NO MENTION OF AT-TAAKHI OR THE REASONS FOR ITS DISAPPEAR-
ANCE. IT DID ASSERT THAT IRAQ'S AIMS WERE THE SAME
AS THOSE OF THE JULY 17, 1968 REVOLUTION AND THE NAME
IRAQ WAS SELECTED AS A NAMESAKE "FOR OUR BELOVED COUNTRY." IT
SAID THAT IRAQ WILL BE A PLATFORM FOR ALL NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE
THINKING AND FOR THE LAWFUL ASPIRATIONS OF THE KURDISH
PEOPLE BUT IT WILL ALSO BE AN IRAQI NEWSPAPER EXPRESSING THE
ASPIRATIONS OF THE WHOLE IRAQI PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS
ON ITS KURDISH CHARACTER.

4. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT THE ARAB PEOPLE AND THEIR
LIBERATION MOVEMENT ARE THE HISTORICAL AND TRUE ALLIES OF THE
STRUGGLE OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO DETACH
AND ISOLATE THE KURDISH STRUGGLE FROM THE STRUGGLE OF THE
WHOLE IRAQI PEOPLE SERVES COMMON ENEMY.

5. CHARACTERISTICALLY, NONE OF THE OTHER BAGHDAD PAPERS
HAVE REFERRED TO THE SUSPENSION OF AT-TAAKHI, OR THE
PUBLICATION OF IRAQ.
WILEY

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